

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.
Please cancel Claim 36, without prejudice or disclaimer, and add new Claim 43.

Listing of Claims:

1-24. (Canceled)

25. (Withdrawn) A method of preparing a fire-retardant petroleum composition, comprising:

adding a petroleum polymer having a hydroxyl group to liquid ammonia to form a solution;

subsequently adding diammonium phosphate to the solution and binding diammonium phosphate groups to the petroleum polymer; and

crosslinking the petroleum polymer, thereby forming a fire-retardant petroleum composition.

26. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 25, further comprising heating the liquid ammonia.

27. (Previously Presented) A fire-retardant petroleum composition prepared by: adding a petroleum polymer having a hydroxyl group to water, thereby forming a solution;

adding ammonium hydroxide to the solution; and

subsequently adding diammonium phosphate to the solution and binding diammonium phosphate groups to the petroleum polymer; and

crosslinking the petroleum polymer, thereby forming a fire-retardant petroleum composition.

28. (Previously Presented) A fire-retardant petroleum composition according to Claim 27, wherein said petroleum polymer is selected from the group consisting of polystyrene, polyethylene, polypropylene, acrylic polymers, polyurethanes, and combinations thereof.

29. (Previously Presented) A fire-retardant petroleum composition prepared by:
adding a petroleum polymer having a hydroxyl group to water, thereby forming a solution;

adding ammonium hydroxide to the solution;

subsequently adding at least one diammonium salt to the solution and binding a diammonium group to the petroleum polymer; and

crosslinking the petroleum polymer, thereby forming a fire-retardant petroleum composition.

30. (Previously Presented) A fire-retardant petroleum composition according to Claim 29, wherein the diammonium salt is selected from the group consisting of diammonium phosphate, diammonium sulfate, diammonium chromate, diammonium borate, and combinations thereof.

31. (Previously Presented) A fire-retardant petroleum composition according to Claim 29, wherein the diammonium salt is diammonium phosphate.

32. (Previously Presented) A fire-retardant petroleum composition according to Claim 29, wherein the diammonium salt is selected from the group consisting of diammonium sulfate, diammonium chromate, diammonium borate, and combinations thereof.

33. (Previously Presented) A fire-retardant petroleum composition according to Claim 29, wherein said petroleum polymer is selected from the group consisting of polystyrene, polyethylene, polypropylene, acrylic polymers, polyurethanes, and combinations thereof.

34. (Previously Presented) A fire-retardant petroleum composition according to Claim 29, wherein said petroleum polymer is polyethylene or polypropylene.

35. (Previously Presented) A fire-retardant petroleum composition made according to Claim 25.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously Presented) A petroleum-based fire retardant comprising one or more petroleum molecules having an oxygen atom from a hydroxyl group, wherein said one or more petroleum molecules are crosslinked by a diammonium moiety.

38. (Previously Presented) A petroleum-based fire retardant according to Claim 37, wherein the diammonium moiety is diammonium phosphate.

39. (Withdrawn) A method for providing fire retardant properties to a product, comprising:

coating a product with a fire-retardant petroleum composition according to Claim 27; and

drying the coated product, thereby forming a fire-retardant coating.

40. (Withdrawn) A method for providing fire retardant properties to a product, comprising:

adding a fire-retardant petroleum composition according to Claim 27 to a slurry or suspension; and

evaporating a portion of water from said slurry or suspension, thereby forming a fire-retardant product.

41. (Withdrawn) A method for providing fire retardant properties to a product, comprising:

coating a product with a fire-retardant petroleum composition according to Claim 29; and

drying the coated product, thereby forming a fire-retardant coating.

42. (Withdrawn) A method for providing fire retardant properties to a product, comprising:

adding a fire-retardant petroleum composition according to Claim 29 to a slurry or suspension; and

evaporating a portion of water from said slurry or suspension, thereby forming a fire-retardant.

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43. (NEW) A fire-retardant petroleum composition according to Claim 27,
wherein the composition comprises a crosslinked, fire-retardant petroleum polymer.